

# THE BEACON

U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece

July 2021



# THE BEACON

Warfighting First, Operate Forward, Be Ready



**COMMANDING OFFICER** CAPT Rafael C. Facundo

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER** CDR Michael Mosi

**COMMAND MASTER CHIEF** CMDCM Brian McDonough

## THE BEACON NEWSLETTER

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**Front Cover:** Graphic by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.

**The Parting Shot:** Aviation Boatswain's Mate Airman Apprentice Brandon Hayes looks out at the NSA Souda Bay flight line on June 21. Photo by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs.



# Triad Corner



Team Souda,

What an incredible opportunity we have, to celebrate the birth of our Nation while stationed in Greece, the birthplace of democracy. Democracy, from the two Greek words demos (people) and kratos (rule), is the foundation on which our Nation is built. And you are the keepers, the peacekeepers, of American democracy, which was born on July 4, 1776, when the Continental Congress declared the 13 American colonies were united, free and independent states.

As President Lincoln so beautifully said in his Gettysburg Address, you are tasked with ensuring "...that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Your mission comes with sacrifices – most of you are here without your families – and you spend long days fulfilling your duty to your shipmates, to the Fleet and to your

country. With each watch you stand, you are adding to the light that the United States shines upon the world, a beacon that continues to encourage others to seek their own inalienable Rights to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. I am proud to serve alongside you.

As Greece continues to relax its COVID restrictions, more opportunities are available to take liberty and leave, and to pursue activities outside of work. Just remember, with this freedom comes responsibility. I'm relying on you to make smart decisions before you leave your home – whether you live in the barracks or in town.

If you are going out and plan to drink alcohol, make sure you have a designated driver, money for a taxi and the number for non-emergency dispatch (282-102-1223) in your pocket – just in case. If your plans for getting

home fall apart, the smartest decision you can make is to call dispatch. We will get you back to base safely.

If you are participating in outdoor activities, whether it's biking, hiking, or going to the beach, make sure you have what you need to stay safe – proper equipment, water to stay hydrated, sunscreen, etc. – and make sure someone knows where you are going and when you'll be back.

Stop by Community Recreation and take a look at the trips they've planned for you – in July you can hike the Samaria Gorge, take beach trips, get your SCUBA certification or compete in a paintball tournament. And, they take care of all the details, making it easy for you to get out and have fun.

Be smart, stay safe, and enjoy yourselves this summer – you've earned it!

*~Skipper*





# AROUND NSA SOUDA BAY

Awards

Reenlistments

Events

Operations

## Awards at Quarters Ceremony

Photos by Joel Diller, Public Affairs



During a June 24 ceremony in front of Building 1, Navy Capt. Rafael Facundo, NSA Souda Bay's commanding officer, recognized Team Souda's Sailors for their outstanding achievements.

### **Blue Jacket of the Quarter 2nd Quarter 2021**

Master-at-Arms Seaman Alexandrya Phillips

### **Letters of Commendation**

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Aaron Dennis

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Kyle Semrau

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Alyssa Staub

### **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals**

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Annette Anaya

Religious Programs Specialist 2nd Class Adjo Awoudja (not pictured)

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Luis Reynosoluna (not pictured)

Chief Boatswain's Mate Passion Richmond



RIGHT: Navy Capt. Rafael C. Facundo, NSA Souda Bay's commanding officer, thanks Team Souda during an Awards at Quarters ceremony June 24.

BOTTOM: Team Souda members gather in front of Building 1 during an Awards at Quarters ceremony June 24.







**Master-at-Arms Seaman Alexandrya Phillips  
Security Department  
Blue Jacket of the Quarter for 2nd Quarter 2021**



**Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Kyle Semrau  
Security Department  
Letter of Commendation**



**Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Aaron Dennis  
Security Department  
Letter of Commendation**



**Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Alyssa Staub  
Security Department  
Letter of Commendation**





**Master-at-Arms 1st Class Annette Anaya  
Security Department  
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**



**Chief Boatswain's Mate Passion Richmond  
Port Operations  
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**

## **Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Frank Aguilera Reenlistment Ceremony**

Photo by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs



**M**aster-at-Arms 3rd Class Frank Aguilera received his Certificate of Reenlistment from Cmdr. Michael Mosi, NSA Souda Bay's executive officer, during his June 1 reenlistment ceremony in front of Building 1. Aguilera, a native of Sacramento, Calif., has been in the Navy for 5 years and 6 months and at NSA Souda Bay for 6 months. He reenlisted for 3 more years.

Aguilera is a member of the Security Department where he checks identification at the gates and performs roves of the base to keep Team Souda safe.

"Being perfectly honest, money was a factor with reenlisting," said Aguilera. "Also, I'm excited about my next duty station, Naval Base Kitsap, Wash. I've been stationed in Washington before when I worked with the Bangor Security Forces. I already know the base and the area."



## Staff Sgt. Tasha Simon Reenlistment Ceremony

Photo by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. Tasha Simon recites the Oath of Reenlistment given by Maj. Benjamin Powell, director of operations, 95th Reconnaissance Squadron Det. 1, during her June 8 reenlistment ceremony on the wing of an RC-135 Rivet Joint aircraft parked on the NSA Souda Bay flight line. Simon, a native of Lafayette, La., has been in the Air Force for 7 years and at NSA Souda Bay for 7 months. She reenlisted for 4 more years.

Simon is a client systems technician, resolving computer, phone and printer issues and installing the computer programs that her teammates need to complete their mission.

Simon said she specifically chose June 8 as her day to reenlist to coincide with her brother, Isaiah Simon, taking the Oath of Enlistment to join the Air Force. "I'm really excited for him," said Simon. "This is the second sibling that has followed in my footsteps. I'm also very proud."

Simon said she reenlisted because she needed to be able to go to her next assignment at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. "I'm excited about Hawaii because, like in Greece, there will be a lot of beaches on the island."

## Fleet's Inn Galley Holds Quarterly Menu Review Board

Photo by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs



Chief Warrant Officer Van Vergarra, food service officer, discusses agenda items during a Quarterly Menu Review Board meeting on June 10 at the Fleet's Inn Galley. The Menu Review Board is a forum where customers are encouraged to voice concerns, opinions and recommendations regarding the Galley's services.

Here is what some Team Souda members had to say:

*"My recommendation representing PWD is to be able to get for dinner the same services provided for breakfast and lunch, like having full access to the salad bar instead of salads to go. If we can make this happen, more of our guys can come and get dinner."*

- Utilitiesman 3rd Class Dodanin Argumedo, Public Works Department

*"Everything is good, but we would like to recommend: more bacon, bring back fish sandwiches, lemon cakes and potentially, pesto pasta."*

- Chief Yeoman Henry Yau, Administration Department



# Medical Staff Celebrates Navy Corpsman Birthday

Photo by Joel Diller, Public Affairs



NSA Souda Bay's Branch Medical Clinic celebrated the 123rd Navy Hospital Corpsman birthday by holding a cake-cutting ceremony at the Chapel on June 17.

In Navy tradition, the oldest and youngest Sailors present cut the ceremonial cake. Pictured cutting the cake are Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Nicholas Afoutou, born in 1982, and Hospitalman Elizabeth Early, born in 1999.

# CSADD Sailors Organize Base-wide Clean Up

Photos by Joel Diller, Public Affairs

NSA Souda Bay's Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions organized a base-wide clean up on June 17. Team Souda volunteers received gloves and trash bags and dispersed in teams to pick up trash around the entire installation. Thank you to everyone who participated for doing your part to keep our "Kilometer of Excellence" looking beautiful!





# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Lt. Michael Spoke, Command Chaplain



and it is still possible to be courageous. But to say that courage is “still possible” is not acknowledging the real role that fear has in courage. Fear is not something we may encounter when trying to be courageous. Fear is exactly what makes courage possible. To say that “courage is not the absence of fear” is really to say that without fear, there is no courage.

## What is courage?

A well-known adage comes to mind: “Courage is not the absence of fear.” Often this saying is used to imply that we can feel afraid

Why? Because courage requires risk and vulnerability. Every courageous act comes with the acknowledgment that there is something of value that can be lost. It can be something as valuable as giving up your life, or something as small as comfort when experiencing an awkward moment. Either way, the fear of losing something is what sets the stage for courage.

This is why courage is not just the ability to do what scares someone else. Public speaking is a common fear for many people. Yet if I personally do not fear public speaking, getting behind the microphone is not showing courage. I do not feel the risk of the action. While it may seem courageous to others, if I do not actually believe I have anything to lose, then it is simply an activity for me. On the other hand, if losing a sense of competency or tarnishing your reputation is scary to you, it would absolutely take courage to act as MC of the Navy Ball. There is a real vulnerability involved, and you really experience risk.

Brene Brown summarizes courage this way: “Courage is the ability to show up when you can’t control the outcome.”

I would make only one edit to Brown’s quote. Courage is not an ability, it is a choice. Whether we have the outcome we hoped for or not, the choice to act is what constitutes courage. Instead of reacting to alleviate our fear, we choose instead to be vulnerable to an outcome that may include loss. We choose to engage the risk. We do not need courage to act when we believe we can control the outcome. We need courage when we know we cannot. So, what enables us to make the choice to

be courageous? In a nutshell, the answer is Honor. In the face of a fear of loss, honor leads us to pursue the chance of gaining or maintaining something we hold in greater value. We choose to risk ourselves to an uncertain outcome because we believe that even the pursuit of that greater value is honorable. Even if we fail to accomplish what we hoped, even if we encounter the loss we feared, the moment of courage lies in the decision to act according to what we believe to be of greater value.

I may not be able to save my friends, and I may fear losing my life, but I believe that even the effort of trying to save them is honorable. I may not be able to control the outcome of a challenging conversation, and I may fear losing the relationship, but I believe that even the effort of trying to be honest is more honorable than lying.

Knowing what our greater values are enables us to more quickly recognize and evaluate not only why we are afraid, but how we really want to act. In an occupational sense, is why knowing what the Navy values is critical for informing all of us on what is expected of us even in the face of fear.

Big or small, we face choices requiring courage in almost every area of our lives. Mentally, spiritually, emotionally, relationally, physically... we face risk and we face vulnerability. When we do, we need to make a choice. The question is: Will you choose courage?

Read 'Part 1: Honor' of this three-part series on Living the Navy's Core Values at: [https://issuu.com/soudapao/docs/beacon\\_may\\_21\\_final/s/12189456](https://issuu.com/soudapao/docs/beacon_may_21_final/s/12189456)





# Department of the Navy Core Values Charter



## “HONOR”

I am accountable for my professional and personal behavior. I will be mindful of the privilege I have to serve my fellow Americans. I will:

- Abide by an uncompromising code of integrity, taking full responsibility for my actions and keeping my word.
- Conduct myself in the highest ethical manner in relationships with seniors, peers and subordinates.
- Be honest and truthful in my dealings within and outside the Department of the Navy.
- Make honest recommendations to my seniors and peers and seek honest recommendations from junior personnel.
- Encourage new ideas and deliver bad news forth rightly.
- Fulfill my legal and ethical responsibilities in my public and personal life.

## “COURAGE”

Courage is the value that gives me the moral and mental strength to do what is right, with confidence and resolution, even in the face of temptation or adversity. I will:

- Have the courage to meet the demands of my profession.
- Make decisions and act in the best interest of the Department of the Navy and the nation, without regard to personal consequences.
- Overcome all challenges while adhering to the highest standards of personal conduct and decency.
- Be loyal to my nation by ensuring the resources entrusted to me are used in an honest, careful and efficient way.

## “COMMITMENT”

The day-to-day duty of every man and woman in the Department of the Navy is to join together as a team to improve the quality of our work, our people and ourselves. I will:

- Foster respect up and down the chain of command.
- Care for the personal and spiritual well-being of my people.
- Show respect toward all people without regard to race, religion or gender.
- Always strive for positive change and personal improvement.
- Exhibit the highest degree of moral character, professional excellence, quality, and competence in all that I do.





# Word on the Street

If You Could Be Any Other Rate,  
What Would You Pick and Why?



“Equipment Operator – driving around all day would be fun. Also, I'd like to stay in the Seabee community.”

**Builder 3rd Class Rodney Lyons**  
Public Works Department



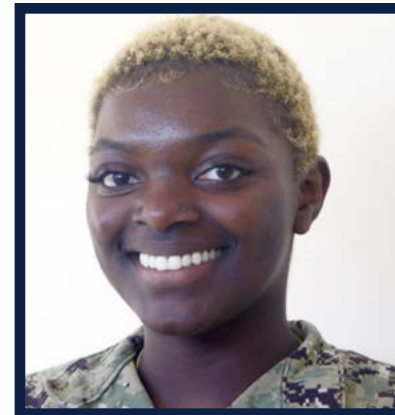
“Religious Program Specialist – they are really personable and they get out into the local community a lot. Also, I enjoy being sociable and helping people.”

**Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Damion Childers**  
Security Department



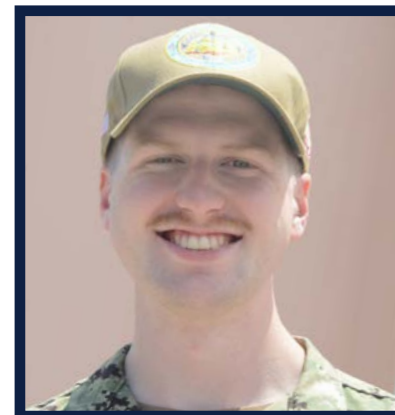
“Musician – I could travel anywhere. I'd like to play the guitar or sing if I was a musician in the Navy.”

**Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Fzan Fernandez**  
Supply, USS Laboon



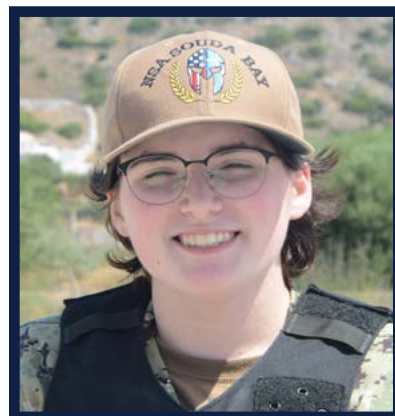
“Operations Specialist – I think it would be neat to be in a room getting to look at the ship's radar equipment.”

**Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class**  
**Shayna Delouis**  
Air Operations



“Gunner's Mate – I like guns.”

**Information Systems Technician 2nd Class**  
**Derek Krawczyk**  
NCTAMS



“Hospital Corpsman – it was my first choice when joining the Navy, but wasn't available. The human body and people's health interests me.”

**Master-at-Arms Seaman Haley Mynatt**  
Security Department



## Word on the Street

If You Could Be Any Other Rate,  
What Would You Pick and Why?



“Navy Diver – I love being in the water. I originally joined the Navy to be a diver.”

**Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Colin Sahlbom**  
Port Operations



“Mass Communication Specialist – they get to be stationed all over the world and they get to see all the different rates in the Navy and all that they do.”

**Boatswain's Mate Seaman Lesley Arciga**  
Operations, USS Laboon



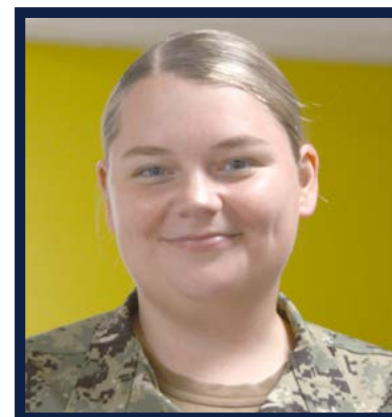
“Hospital Corpsman – I was a certified nursing assistant before joining the Navy. I felt a lot of fulfillment in helping people, especially working with dementia patients.”

**Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Adjo Awoudja**  
Religious Ministries



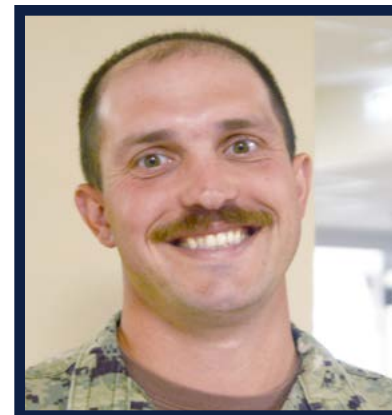
“Personnel Specialist – they have a good advancement and great programs for Sailors that want to become warrant officers.”

**Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Carlos Panchana**  
Branch Medical Clinic



“Legalman – I've always been interested in history and law.”

**Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Rebecca Brook**  
Port Operations



“Gunner's Mate – big guns are cool.”

**Master-at-Arms 1st Class Dylan Boyd**  
Security Department



“Builder – I like to stay busy. Also, I'd like to see the progress of my work by seeing the final project after.”

**Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class**  
**Jacob Vernier**  
American Forces Network



## Word on the Street

If You Could Be Any Other Rate,  
What Would You Pick and Why?



“Air Traffic Controller – it involves math,  
which I really enjoy.”

**Boatswain's Mate Seaman Recruit  
Jacob Stjernstrom  
Port Operations**



“Boatswain's Mate – I'm a hands-on person  
and there are many different aspects within  
their job. Also, I've done line handling  
before and I really enjoyed it.”

**Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Christian Pena  
Security Department**



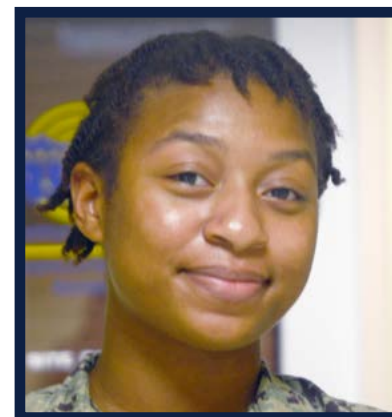
“Builder – I like working with my hands and  
they perform a lot of hands-on work.”

**Air Traffic Controller Airman Apprentice  
Damion Young  
Air Operations**



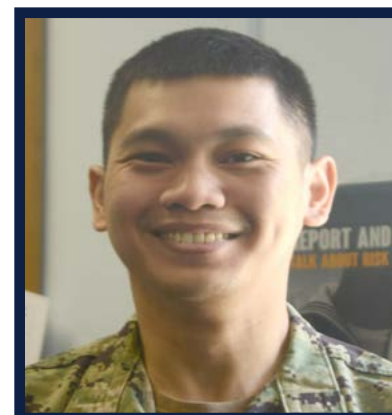
“Navy Counselor – I really enjoy working  
with individuals on improving their careers  
and knowing their self worth and what path  
they want to take.”

**Utilitiesman 3rd Class Dodanin Argumendo  
Public Works Department**



“Yeoman – they can be stationed anywhere  
because everybody needs them.”

**Logistics Specialist Seaman Daanzae Blandwarren  
NAVSUP**



“Mass Communication Specialist – I would  
like to go out and see new things, take  
pictures, videos, and edit them.”

**Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Joven Agoncilio  
Navy Munitions Command**



“Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) –  
the flight deck is action packed.”

**Personnel Specialist 1st Class John Braun  
Administration Department**



# Team Souda Members Named to UMGC Dean's List

By Jerry Glover, University of Maryland Global Senior Program Coordinator



Pictured from left to right: Construction Electrician 2nd Class Jeromy Harris, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy Thurman, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Ashley Henry, Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Dan Shirley, and Jerry Glover. Not pictured: Misty Toennies. Photo by Joel Diller, Public Affairs.

**N**SA Souda Bay may be a small base, but it packs a punch here in the Eastern Mediterranean. And not just operationally, but educationally, too. We have a small education program, but five students here made the University of Maryland Global Campus's dean's list for the spring term. To be recognized, a student must have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5. These are students who regularly knock out courses with at least a B, if not receive straight A's.

The University would like to recognize the five students:

- Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Ashley Henry, Air Operations
- Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Dan Shirley, Supply Department
- Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy Thurman, Administrative Office
- Construction Electrician 2nd Class Jeromy Harris, Public Works Department
- Misty Toennies, 95th Reconnaissance Squadron

UMGC gets students from across the base population – we have a lot right now from Navy Munitions Command, American Forces Network, Public Works Department and Security. There are Sailors all over base who are quietly, but consistently, working toward their degrees while advancing professionally, and are achieving academic excellence.

Not eligible for Navy tuition assistance? That is OK – you can apply for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The Navy will not give you TA during your first two years of service, reckoning that you ought to be concentrating on learning the mission, not sociology, for example. But, if you ARE doing your job, your command may give you permission to take classes. FAFSA is the way to go. Even Sailors who are eligible for TA can apply for FAFSA to cover tuition beyond what their TA provides for.

A Sailor came to me in early May thinking he wasn't eligible for FAFSA, but I convinced him that he was. He applied and three weeks later received \$4,000 of federal grant money to fund his education for the next year. I know of another person who received \$4,800. There are Sailors among you with money in their pockets and you don't have it – because you haven't applied! Ask me or one of our elite students mentioned above about it. Just do it, please.

If you are interested, come see me at the College Office located in the Building 49 courtyard. We can talk about your options. There is no commitment to me or to UMGC. The commitment is to your own future.

OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Friday: Closed

REMOTE/VIRTUAL OFFICE:  
<https://umgc-edu.zoom.us/j/840013102>



**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**  
**GLOBAL CAMPUS | EUROPE**

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# Souda Spotlight: Builder Constructionman Armend Berisha Public Works Department

Story and photo by MC2 Kelly Agee, Public Affairs



**B**uilder Constructionman Armend Berisha, a native of San Diego, has been in the Navy for 2 years and stationed at NSA Souda Bay for 1 year. Prior to enlisting, he was a mechanic at a car dealership. He joined the Navy because he wanted to explore the world and learn a new skill. Currently, he works in the Public Works Department's Transportation shop where he refuels boilers and generators and transfers people, equipment and supplies between NSA Souda Bay and the Marathi NATO Pier Facility.

## **What is a typical day in Transportation?**

When I get to work we will have some customers that need our help, whether it be forklift support or tractor trailer support to move military cargo containers. We mostly help special operations command units transit, so if they are going on a mission or a training operation we are the first people there to help move all their supplies for them. If we are not helping transiting commands, we are refueling all the boilers on base and maintaining all the generators, as well.

## **Why did you chose the builder rate?**

If I'm being honest, I didn't want to go on a ship. I'm more intrigued by maintaining bases and to help build the bases in strategic areas. Also, the expeditionary side of things, like combat training, I am a big fan of that atmosphere.

## **Why did you switch to the Transportation shop?**

I used to be in the Builder's shop. I moved to the Transportation shop in December of last year. There was a manning gap and Transportation had no other equipment operators, so they trained me up. They said I was the most confident person and that I have a skill set to adapting to learn new things easily.

## **What is it like working in Transportation as a builder?**

I honestly enjoy it, because now I have the skills of building and being able to drive big trucks. It has been fun learning something new.

## **What is your favorite thing about your job?**

The challenges it has. For me, it is driving big trucks in small city areas. It is nothing like the states where you have open roads and freeways

everywhere. Here, there are blind turns and super tight corners. I like that because after you drive a tractor trailer through Chania you feel like you really accomplished something afterwards.

## **How did you help with the Amphibious Readiness Group visit?**

When the ships came we were constantly moving barriers for better security and we were transporting Security personnel on the bus. We provided fork lift support, we were refueling the boilers for the Argonaut, and any other cargo or supplies the ship needed moved we did for them. The boilers are important because if they aren't working then the Argonaut wouldn't be able to generate hot water or run any ovens, which would result in not being able to clean dishes and make food for the ships' visit. It was a lot of back and forth for the whole time they were there. We were also moving boats around for other transiting movements. Marathi was our best friend that whole week.

## **When you're not at work, what are you doing?**

I really enjoy running. I enjoy it because it helps me clear my mind. If I am stressed out it is my time to decompress and let everything go. For the past two months I have been running down to Marathi and back. There is a lot of uphill running. It is a challenge, but after you complete it, it is like, 'Oh wow, I just did that.'

## **What is something you want Team Souda to know about Transportation?**

We are definitely hard workers. We are doing a lot of behind-the-scenes work and a whole lot of people don't notice. We are trying our best to maintain the base and all the facilities to keep the mission going strong.



# Souda Spotlight: Kathy Kotsifakis, Government Purchase Card Program Coordinator Finance Department

Story and photo by Joel Diller, Public Affairs



**K**athy Kotsifakis, born in Crete and raised in San Francisco, returned to the island with her family as a young adult to fulfill her father's dream of moving back home. She started working on the installation in the Comptroller's office 29 years ago, and now manages the Government Purchase Card program, ensuring Team Souda members know how to properly purchase what they need to accomplish their mission.

## **How did you get started working here?**

I started in Comptroller and I've stayed with Comptroller office. I started out helping and working my way up. Back then, when they opened up the requirement in the newspaper, all they wanted was someone with English and typewriting skills. I had no idea the job was going to be in Finance, but I was trained on the job.

## **How is the Government Purchase Card Program organized?**

I am the Agency/Organization Program Coordinator Hierarchy Level 5. That means that I manage the program for the Captain. It's his program, but we manage it here for the NSA departments, like the Fire Department, Galley, Security, Port Ops, Admin, etc. And we have hierarchy levels. It starts with 6, and goes 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Level 6 are the cardholders, I'm the Level 5, and Level 4 is my Region A/OPC, and it goes further.

## **How do you manage the program?**

I start off by training the cardholders. There are some trainings that they have to take, but I continue to train them, I brief them, and I review what they order. We say "No" to a lot of things, but this is only because of policy and to protect the integrity of the program. We make sure the approving officials approve and certify the statements in a timely manner. And we do get a lot of audits, every 18 months. We're under an audit right

now so we're working really hard on that.

## **When you're not working, what do you like to do?**

First of all, I like to shop. When I shop it'll be for clothes or shoes. There are two or three stores that are my favorites downtown. And then second of all, spend family time. I have two children. And I like to go out to dinner with friends, and just going around the island in the summer.

## **What do you like to do with your family?**

We like to gather together and go out to dinner. Or, we'll go to our village. It's in Kalyves, it's 15 minutes away, it's my husband's village. We have a little house that we fixed up to get out there, and the kids have started to like it out there, too. I have a garden, so I'm starting to get into more of a village life and garden life.

## **What do you want Team Souda to know?**

We try our best to make everyone happy to be able to purchase, depending on their mission requirements, what they need. But I also want them to know that it's not an easy job and I'm very happy because I have a very good support team - my approving officials and my cardholders. They are really good at understanding what they can and cannot do with the program. Without them I don't think I could do it on my own.



# Souda Spotlight:

## Frank Vargas, Deputy Site Director

### Naval Supply Systems Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella Site Souda Bay

Story and photo by Joel Diller, Public Affairs



**F**rank Vargas, a native of Houston, Texas, found his way to NSA Souda Bay by way of Washington, D.C., and Sigonella, Italy. He earned a bachelor’s degree in international relations and national security from Georgetown University and an MBA and master’s degree in supply chain management from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. He has been a Team Souda member for almost three years, managing the logistics programs that support the installation and the Fleet.

#### Why did you want to work for the government?

I fell in love with history when I was in junior high school and I think that my interest in government evolved from my interest in history. Growing up when I did and where I did, I was taught a very state-centric view of history. Germany did this and Russia did that and Japan did this. So I always associated history with state actors. So that is really how I got interested in the federal government.

#### What does the deputy site director do?

I am equally accountable with the supply officer, Lt. Cmdr. Lessner, for all the logistics functions of the installation. That means pier-side fleet logistics support, the post office, U.S. & Greek customs clearance, household goods, the VAT relief program, HAZMAT management, vehicle and aircraft fueling, and a lot of other stuff. It’s a very diverse portfolio of projects to manage and services that keep me interested, because there are always new challenges.

#### What has been a career highlight here?

This is my first supervisory position. I had been an analyst, I had been reporting to big bosses, but never had any functional authority. When I first came here you couldn’t ship liquids through the mail. I was in the post office – and remember, I had authority for the first time ever – and I saw the little sign that they had in the post office that said no liquids in the mail. And I said to the postal clerk, “Why? Why can’t I ship liquids?” And they said, “Because the air carrier says we can’t ship liquids.” I turned to the postal clerk and said, “We’re going to fix that.” It took many months of negotiation with the air carrier, but as you know we can now ship olive oil and honey through the mail. And I was maybe unreasonably proud of this, because it didn’t do anything for the Fleet or anything else, but what is

the point of being here if you can’t send olive oil or honey home to your family? It might sound really silly, but that was the first thing that I ever just said, “By my authority, we are going to change this. I don’t know how long it’s going to take or how we’re going to do it, but we’re going to do it.” And we did it.

#### When you’re not at work, what are you doing?

My first priority is always playing with my kids. Whenever I can peel them away from their toys or the TV, I like to do that. Travel is a huge passion for me and (my wife), Rachael. We haven’t had a lot of opportunities to do that lately, but are looking forward to doing that again soon.

#### Do you have any hobbies?

I really like classical history and I love particularly Greek and Roman classics. So, being in Greece is fantastic. Even when you can’t leave the country, there are still a million things to do. I really like being here because it let’s me live in the place that I spent a lot of time studying.

#### What do you want Team Souda to know?

I think it is important to practice gratitude about the opportunity to be here. Remember that there are people not just in my department, but others, who are working everyday to make life here as enjoyable as possible. It doesn’t mean you can’t have complaints or suggestions for improvement. We’re a fairly remote place and fixing things here can be hard. We are working on improving the VAT process right now. We’ve gone to email notifications for the post office – you don’t have to get those yellow slips anymore. We got the gas station fixed after the long time that it was down. We are working on a lot of other quality of life improvements. Enjoy your time here, you may never get to come back again.



# Community Outreach: Volunteers Clean Up Local Gorge

Photos courtesy of Lt. Michael Spoke, Command Chaplain



Volunteers pose for a group photo next to the trash collected from the Koliakoudes gorge on June 20.

**N**SA Souda Bay volunteers joined the local volunteer group Taking Care of the Village of Apokoronas to clean up the Koliakoudes gorge, located between the villages of Macheri and Nio Chorio in Apokoronas, on June 20. The group removed several garbage bags of trash and collected larger items for removal. Thank you to all volunteers for working hard to keep Crete beautiful!



Volunteers fill garbage bags with trash collected from the Koliakoudes gorge on June 20.





# Museums & Exhibitions in Chania

Compiled by Kostas Fantaousakis, Public Affairs

## Maritime Museum



The Maritime Museum of Crete is located at the entrance of the Firkas Fortress. It was founded in 1973 on the 32nd anniversary of the Battle of Crete in order to house and preserve Greek maritime traditions. It is the second oldest maritime museum in Greece (the Maritime Museum of Greece in Piraeus is the oldest).

The exhibits on the first floor include models of ancient ships, a model of the fortified town and port under Venetian rule and a model that shows shipbuilding and repair buildings with a rowing ship inside.

The second floor exhibits include models of modern Hellenic Navy ships, destroyers, a missile boat and a landing ship with trucks and vehicles on board. The exhibits include the full bridge of a destroyer and two torpedo propulsion units. A section of the museum is dedicated to the German invasion of Crete.

Find out more information about the Maritime Museum and the Moro Shipyard at [mar-mus-crete.gr](http://mar-mus-crete.gr)

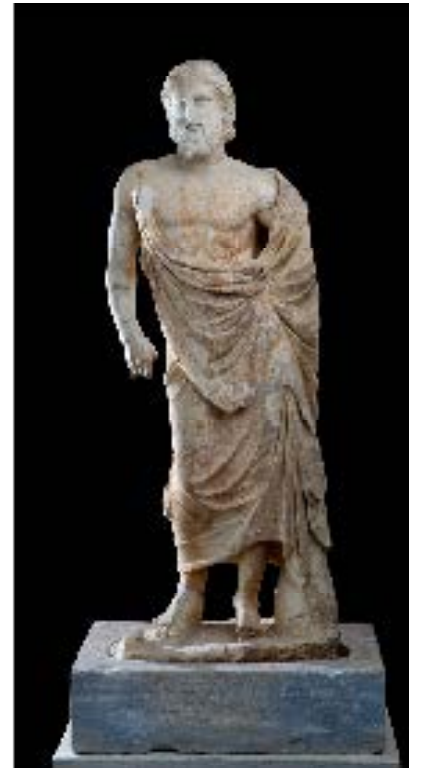
## Moro Shipyard



On the other side of the harbor, you will find the Permanent Exhibition of Ancient and Traditional Shipbuilding of the Maritime Museum of Crete. It is housed in the Moro Shipyard, which was constructed beginning in 1607 during Venetian rule. One of the main exhibits is a replica of a ship from the Minoan era.



## Archaeological Museum of Chania



The Archaeological Museum of Chania is located near the Venetian Harbor and has been housed in the church of the Venetian Monastery of St. Francis since 1963. The museum's exhibits showcase the cultural history and character of the area through the ages, from the Neolithic period to the Roman era. The collections include Minoan finds from the city of Chania, prehistoric finds from caves, finds from tombs of the Geometric period, coins, prehistoric and historic jewelry, sculptures and mosaics.

Get more information at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological\\_Museum\\_of\\_Chania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological_Museum_of_Chania)

## Museum of Typography

The Museum of Typography in Chania opened in 2005 and covers every aspect of the art that was born in the 15th century in Gutenberg's workshop, including the evolution of the graphic arts and typography and the history of writing. The museum was built by Yannis Garedakis, founder of the newspaper "Haniotika Nea". Visitors have a chance to use 19th century printing presses and view exhibits tracing the history of typography from the Middle Ages to the present day.

Find out more information at [www.typography-museum.gr](http://www.typography-museum.gr)





# The Parting Shot...

